

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of hooking up at least two ~~users~~ people using a computer-implemented hook-up assistant (HUA), wherein said ~~users~~ people are connected in a network environment having a plurality of users, and wherein each of said users has a network-enabled calendar, said method comprising:

automatically activating said HUA in response to an incomplete telephone call made by a first of said at least two people to a second of said at least two people, wherein said incomplete telephone call that triggers the automatic activation of said HUA is indicated by a busy signal, an answering machine, a voicemail, a facsimile machine, or a computerized agent, and wherein said activated HUA hooks up said at least two people by:

(a) determining an appropriate time when said at least two people ~~of said users~~ to be hooked up will be available to participate in an event or activity;

(b) scheduling said event or activity at said appropriate time on respective calendars of said at least two people; and

(c) initiating said event or activity substantially at said appropriate time, wherein said initiating said event or activity comprises establishing a real-time communication between said at least two people, wherein said real-time communication is selected from the group consisting of a phone call, an instant messaging session, an online chat, a video phone session, and a teleconference. ~~determining, scheduling, and initiating are accomplished by said HUA; and~~

~~automatically activating said HUA in response to an incomplete telephone call made by a first of said at least two people to a second of said at least two people.~~

2. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein
said HUA comprises preferences and constraints of one of said at least two people;
and wherein
said appropriate time is determined consistent with said preferences and constraints.

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3. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein
said HUA comprises
privileges to access and alter said respective calendars of said at least two
people, and
means for accessing and altering said respective calendars of said at least two
people according to said privileges.

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4. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
activating said HUA in response to a request from one of said at least two people.

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5. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 4, wherein
said activating further comprises
interacting with said one of said at least two people; and
proposing said event or activity based on inputs obtained during said
interaction.

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6. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 4, wherein
said activating further comprises

interacting with said one of said at least two people to solicit yes or no answers; and

proposing said event or activity based on said answers.

5 7. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
activating said HUA in response to a request referring to a previous event or activity with desired changes thereto.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 4 or 7, wherein
10 said request is in a form of spoken or manually entered natural language, in a form of a computer language, or in a form of an electronic signal.

9-10. **(Cancelled)**

15 11. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
exchanging data related to said respective calendars regardless of physical and virtual boundaries that include distance, language, platforms, operating systems, and network protocols, wherein said exchanging is accomplished by said HUA.

20 12. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 11, wherein
said exchanging data comprises encoding a cross-domain structured syntax language including hypertext markup language (HTML), eXtensible HTML (XHTML), eXtensible markup language (XML), XML document type definition (DTD), and XML schema.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
assuring said at least two people be able to participate in said event or activity at said
appropriate time.

5 14. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 13, wherein
said assuring comprises
determining whether said at least two people will have, at said appropriate
time, access to suitable communication means that will be available for use in said
event or activity; and
10 reminding said at least two people about said event or activity.

15. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 14, wherein
said suitable communication means include wired and wireless communication
devices, resources, web-based services, cellular phones, telephones, video phones, Internet-
15 enabled phones, Internet-enabled input devices, instant messaging, virtual meeting places,
online chat rooms, online games, Multi-User Dungeons (MUDs), MUD Object Oriented sites
(MOOs), personal digital assistant (PDA), and World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
compliant multimodal interaction means.

20 16. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein
said event or activity is a phone conversation, a business meeting, a family gathering,
or a social engagement.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

securing reservations necessary to realize said event or activity for said at least two people.

18. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein
5 said event or activity requires admission tickets, tokens, or permits; and wherein
said HUA comprises means for purchasing said admission tickets, tokens, or permits
for said at least two people to attend said event or activity.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein
10 said event or activity requires invitations; and wherein
said HUA comprises means for obtaining invitations for said at least two people to
attend said event or activity.

20. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein
15 said appropriate time or said event or activity is found infeasible or otherwise
undesirable,
said HUA comprises means for proposing at least one alternative.

21. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, further comprising
20 proposing changes in prior commitments on said respective calendars when a new
request can only be desirably satisfied by impinging on said prior commitments.

22. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 21, further comprising

altering said prior commitments in accordance with proper privileges predetermined or obtained in real time.

23. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 21 or 22, wherein

5 said HUA is enabled to determine independently how said prior commitments can be altered; and wherein

said HUA automatically alters said prior commitments on said respective calendars to satisfy said new request and promptly notifies those affected by said alteration.

10 24. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 23, wherein

said alteration is selected from the group consisting of rescheduling said prior commitments, replacing said prior commitments with alternatives, and a combination thereof.

15 25. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

activating said HUA, or invoking one or more functions thereof, in response to a triggering mechanism selected from the group consisting of a tone, a button, a key, a sound, a spoken word, a sequence of tones, a sequence of buttons, a sequence of keys, a sequence of sounds, a sequence of spoken words, and a combination thereof.

20 26. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 25, wherein

said HUA automatically contacts or automatically schedules to contact a person, an agent of said person, or a HUA of said person to schedule a hook-up event to bring its user and said person together.

27. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 26, wherein
said contact is realized by phone, text message, voice message, or email.

5 28. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 26, wherein
said scheduled contact is effected periodically until a certain criterion is satisfied.

29. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein
said HUA can be implemented as a computer product, wherein the computer product
10 comprises a computer readable medium carrying computer-executable instructions
implementing a plurality of functions of said HUA.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 29, wherein
said computer product is embodied in a phone, a stand-alone network-enabled device,
15 a client, a server, or a combination thereof.

31. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 29, wherein
said computer product is implemented as part of an instant messaging system.

20 32-49. **(Canceled)**

50. **(New)** The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

tentatively committing said at least two people to said event or activity by indicating said event or activity on said calendar of one or more of said at least two people participating in said event or activity.

5 51. **(Currently Amended)** A method of heuristically hooking up at least two people ~~users~~ using a computer-implemented hook-up assistant (HUA), wherein said ~~users~~ at least two people are connected in a network environment having a plurality of users, and wherein at least one of said users has a network-enabled calendar, said method comprising:

~~providing a calendar for one or more of said users;~~

10 automatically activating said HUA in response to an incomplete telephone call made by a first of said at least two people to a second of said at least two people, wherein said incomplete telephone call that triggers the automatic activation of said HUA is indicated by a busy signal, an answering machine, a voicemail, a facsimile machine, or a computerized agent, and wherein said activated HUA hooks up said at least two people by:

15 ~~providing a tentatively scheduling function to allow a first of said users to tentatively schedule~~ an appropriate time for an event or activity to be attended by said first and said ~~with a second people of said users~~, wherein said tentatively scheduled event or activity is on said calendar of said first person user, and wherein said scheduling is based on one or more heuristics; and

20 initiating said event or activity substantially at said appropriate time, wherein said initiating said event or activity comprises establishing a real-time communication between said at least two people, and wherein said real-time communication is selected from the group consisting of a phone call, an instant messaging session, an online chat, a video phone session, and a teleconference.

52. **(Cancelled)**

53. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 51, wherein said heuristics
5 comprise a time delay or a time interval.

54. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 51, further comprising
allowing said second user to confirm availability at said tentatively scheduled time or cancel
said scheduled event or activity.

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55. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 54, wherein said second user
can reschedule said event or activity, and wherein said rescheduling is based on one or more
heuristics.

15 56. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 51, wherein said
tentatively scheduled event or activity is communicated to said second user.

57. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 56, wherein said
tentatively scheduled event or activity is communicated to said second user with a phone
20 message, a text message, a voice message, or an email.

58. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 56, wherein said
tentatively scheduled event or activity is on said calendar of said second user.

59. (New) The method according to claim 51, wherein said incomplete telephone call that triggers the automatic activation of said HUA is indicated by an unanswered call.

60. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said incomplete telephone call
5 that triggers the automatic activation of said HUA is indicated by an unanswered call.